Name of the Public Sector Undertaking	$/bbl
Indian Oil Corporation Limited	3.69
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited - Mumbai	4.48
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited - Kochi	6.27
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited - Mumbai	6.11
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited - Vizag	2.42
Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemicals Limited	5.33
Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited	1.22
Numaligarh Refinery Limited*	1.21

*Net of freight and CST under recoveries

(c) The total quantum of crude oil refined by Public Sector Undertaking refineries during 2008-09 was 112.2 MMT (Provisional).

(d) The quantum of petroleum products produced by the Public Sector Undertaking refineries during 2008-09 was 104.80 MMT (Provisional) against their combined installed capacity of 105.47 MMTPA as on 1.4.2008.

Construction of National Gas Highways

1738. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to construct the national gas highway;

(b) if so, the details worked out so far;

(c) the route connecting the south and west in the gas highway; and

(d) the aims and objectives of such gas highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) There is an existing natural gas transportation network in the country. The network has trunk pipelines of more than 9,000 km. The pipelines are owned and operated by Central & State Public Sector Undertakings, as also Private Companies.

Dahej-Uran and Dabhol- Panvel pipelines have been commissioned by GAIL. Further, Kakinada-Hyderabad-Uran- Ahmedabad pipeline has been commissioned by Reliance Gas Transportation Infrastructure Limited (RGTIL). Further, authorization has been issued for Dabhol- Bangalore, Kochi-Kanjirkkod-Bangalore/ Mangalore, Vijaywada- Nellore- Chennai, Chennai-Tuticorin and Chennai-Bangalore-Mangalore Pipelines.

The pipeline network has to be further augmented to connect new sources of indigenous gas & Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) to customers in new areas/States. As laying of natural gas trunk pipelines allows growth of natural gas-based industries, it spurs economic development in the

area. Hence, efforts are being made to further develop natural gas transportation network in the country, for which no specific scheme has been formulated by the Union Government for the same, as of now.

Impact of hike in oil prices

†1739. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI:
SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government agrees that increase in crude prices at international level over the last six months has impacted the country most;

(b) if so, the measures being taken by Government to avoid this;

(c) the security blanket currently available to prevent Indian market and consumers from the repercussion of huge rise and fall in the prices of crude oil at international level; and

(d) the extent to which oil bonds issued to compensate losses to public sector oil marketing companies is effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) The crude oil prices have been steadily increasing since December 2008 and the Indian basket, during July 2009 is $ 63.27 per barrel (up to 15th July 2009).The month-wise average prices of Indian Basket of Crude Oil since December'08 is tabulated below:

	$/bbl
December' 08	40.61
January'09	43.99
February'09	43.22
March'09	46.02
April' 09	50.14
May'09	58
June'09	69.12
July'09 (up to 15.07.09)	63.27

In view of the sustained increase in international prices of crude oil and petroleum products, the retail selling prices of Petrol and Diesel were increased by Rs. 4/litre and Rs. 2/litre respectively at Delhi, with corresponding increases in the rest of the country, effective 2nd July'09.

As passing on the entire impact of the steep increase in the oil prices to the consumers would have resulted in sharp increase in the domestic prices, aggravating the inflationary conditions and weakened the high growth momentum of the economy, the Government took measures to ensure that the burden was shared by all the stakeholders, namely, the Government, the Upstream Oil Companies, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and the consumers in the following manner:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.